

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Inquiry Regarding Evaluation of Ownership
Of Maine's Power Delivery Systems

October 25, 2019

Notice of Inquiry and Request
for Comment and Information

BARTLETT, Chairman; WILLIAMSON and DAVIS, Commissioners

I. BACKGROUND

During its 2019 session, the Legislature enacted Resolve, Directing the Public Utilities Commission To Evaluate the Ownership of Maine's Power Delivery Systems. Resolve, ch. 107. The Resolve directs the Commission to evaluate the proposal for creation of the Maine Power Delivery Authority as presented in L.D. 1646, An Act To Restore Local Ownership and Control of Maine's Power Delivery Systems, referred as "the proposal." This evaluation must include but is not limited to:

1. Analysis of the costs and benefits, both short-term and long-term, of the proposal;
2. Examination of legal, regulatory, technical, financial and operational issues related to the proposal and its implementation;
3. Assessment of anticipated impacts, both positive and negative, of the proposal on the State, including but not limited to impacts on electricity rates, utility employees and ratepayers; and
4. Development of alternatives or amendments to the proposal to address any identified obstacles to its implementation.

The Resolve states that the Commission shall contract with an independent consultant with relevant expertise to assist with the evaluation. The Commission is required to provide a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) no later than February 15, 2020. A copy of the Resolve and LD 1646 is attached to this Resolve.

II. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

The Commission has contracted with London Economics International (LEI) to provide an independent evaluation of the issues raised in the Resolve. To assist LEI with this work, the Commission requests that any interest person provide comments or information relevant to the evaluation required by the Resolve. All such comments and information should be submitted through the Commission's case management system

with reference to Docket No. 2019-00280. The Commission requests that comments and information be filed by November 12, 2019. The Commission will send this request to the following: the notification list for the Central Maine Power Company's rate proceeding (Docket No. 2018-00194) and billing and metering proceeding (Docket No. 2019-00015); the notification list for Emera Maine's reorganization proceeding (Docket No. 2019-00097); members of the EUT Committee; and persons who testified on LD 1646.

Dated at Hallowell, Maine, this 25th day of October 2019.

/s/ Harry Lanphear
Harry Lanphear
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Bartlett
 Williamson
 Davis

NOTICE OF RIGHTS TO REVIEW OR APPEAL

5 M.R.S. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of review or appeal of PUC decisions at the conclusion of an adjudicatory proceeding are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 11(D) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R. 110) within **20** days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which reconsideration is sought. Any petition not granted within **20** days from the date of filing is denied.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within **21** days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. § 1320(1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Appellate Procedure.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. § 1320(5).

Note: The attachment of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the particular document may be subject to review or appeal. Similarly, the failure of the Commission to attach a copy of this Notice to a document does not indicate the Commission's view that the document is not subject to review or appeal.